S/N Unknown

1-9-02 PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Paul A. Farrar et al.

Examiner: Unknown

Serial No.:

Unknown

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Filed:

Herewith

Docket: 303.469US3

Title:

THERMAL PROCESSING OF METAL ALLOYS FOR AN IMPROVED CMP

PROCESS IN INTEGRATED CIRCUIT FABRICATION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

In compliance with the duty imposed by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 et. seq., the enclosed materials are brought to the attention of the Examiner for review in connection with the above-identified patent application. Pursuant to the provisions of MPEP 609, Applicants request that a copy of the 1449 form, initialed as being considered by the Examiner be returned to the Applicants.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), copies of the listed documents are not provided as these references were previously cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent Office in connection with Applicants' prior U.S. application, Serial No. 09/038,252, filed on March 10, 1998, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120.

Applicants respectfully request consideration of these references during prosecution of the above-identified matter. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' Representative at the below-listed telephone number if there are any questions regarding this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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This paper or fee is being deposited on the date indicated above with the United States Postal Service pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10, and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231.